FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COUNTY AND CITY LEADERS WELCOME FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN PORT SECURITY
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Will Bring Radiation Detection Project to San Diego

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today it will screen small watercraft for radiological and nuclear threats in the San Diego and the Puget Sound region.

"A secure port is an important part of keeping the entire San Diego area secure," said County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Chairman Ron Roberts. "With our proximity to the international border and large military presence, it makes sense to invest technology and resources here. We're glad the Department of Homeland Security recognized San Diego's strategic role by selecting the port as one of the first to participate in the pilot."

"Being selected by DHS to participate in this innovative program adds yet another great tool for the Port of San Diego to protect our ports from those who would seek to do Americans harm," said San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. "It is another example of the San Diego region being viewed as a leader in the nation in Homeland Security efforts and collaboration."

The West Coast Maritime pilot program will take place over three years, focusing on radiation detection on recreational and small commercial vessels, including commercial fishing vessels, recreational boats and yachts, and towing vessels.

The program is already underway in the Puget Sound area of Washington, where today's announcement was made. It will begin soon in San Diego, but a specific date has not yet been determined.

EDITOR'S NOTE

- For additional County and City officials' reaction, please contact:

  County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Ron Roberts' Office at (619) 531-5544

  City of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders Office at (619) 236-6497

- For additional information about the West Coast Maritime Pilot Program, please contact:

  Department of Homeland Security Press Office at (202) 282-8010

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